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O 292324Z MAY 74 ZFF-1 ZFF-4 ZYH  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM

TO DR KISSINGER/JERUSALEM

UNCLAS [REDACTED] DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS WH41479

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SECTION 01 OF 02

TTHAK351

PLEASE DELIVER TO BREMER/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

HARRIS PUBLIC OPINION ANALYSIS

BY LOUIS HARRIS

AN OVERWHELMING 85 PER CENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE RATE  
SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER AS DOING A GOOD-TO-EXCELLENT  
JOB IN OFFICE. ONLY 10 PER CENT GIVE HIM NEGATIVE MARKS ON HIS  
PERFORMANCE. THIS IS THE HIGHEST POSITIVE RATING EVER RECORDED  
IN THE HARRIS SURVEY FOR A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

FURTHERMORE, IT COMES AT A TIME WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON'S  
STANDING WITH THE PUBLIC IS 32 PER CENT POSITIVE AS AGAINST  
66 PER CENT NEGATIVE ON HIS OVERALL HANDLING OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE CONTINUING HIGH MARKS ACCORDED  
PRESIDENT NIXON IN FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS ARE THE CORE OF HIS  
SUPPORT WHICH HAS WITHSTOOD THE EROSION OF WATERGATE, AND AT  
LEAST SOME OF THIS IS ATTRIBUTABLE DIRECTLY TO THE DEEP RESERVOIR  
OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN HIS SECRETARY OF STATE.

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HERE ARE SOME OF THE KEYS TO DR. KISSINGER'S HIGH STANDING  
IN PUBLIC OPINION:

-- BY 88-4 PER CENT, AMERICANS CREDIT HIM WITH BEING  
A "HIGHLY SKILLED NEGOTIATOR, ESPECIALLY IN DEALING WITH THE  
COMMUNISTS."

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

\*\*\*\*\*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

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-- BY 75-11 PER CENT, THEY FEEL THAT "NO MATTER WHO IS PRESIDENT, HE SHOULD STAY ON AS SECRETARY OF STATE."

-- BY 67-7 PER CENT, THEY AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT THAT "HE HAS DONE A REMARKABLE JOB IN BRINGING PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT OVER TO THE AMERICAN AND AWAY FROM THE RUSSIAN SIDE."

CRITICISMS OF THE SECRETARY FALL BY AND LARGE ON UNSYMPATHETIC EARS:

-- BY 44-29 PER CENT, A PLURALITY REJECT THE CHARGE THAT DR. KISSINGER "IS TAKING A LOT OF GAMBLIES AND RISKS WITH WORLD AGREEMENTS, WITHOUT CHECKING WITH CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT, OR EVEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT." POTENTIALLY, THIS CRITICISM COULD BE THE MOST SERIOUS FOR THE SECRETARY, PARTICULARLY IF HE FAILS TO BRING ABOUT SOME NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT ON WHICH HIGH HOPES HAVE BEEN AROUSED.

-- BY 69-16 PER CENT, AMERICANS REFUSE TO GO ALONG WITH THE CLAIM THAT KISSINGER IS "TOO COLD AND UNAPPEALING AS A PERSONALITY."

-- BY 79-9 PER CENT, THEY REJECT THE SUGGESTION THAT "IF PRESIDENT NIXON IS REMOVED FROM OFFICE, KISSINGER SHOULD LEAVE WITH HIM."

CERTAINLY THE THRUST OF THESE RESULTS POINTS NOT ONLY TO A HIGH DEGREE OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE SECRETARY OF STATE, BUT ALSO ALMOST AS DEEP A FEELING THAT, IF PRESIDENT NIXON SHOULD LEAVE OFFICE, KISSINGER SHOULD REMAIN IN HIS POST.

THIS PUTS THE NIXON-KISSINGER RELATIONSHIP ON A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD. ON THE ONE HAND, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ONE REASON 66 PER CENT OF THE PUBLIC GIVE MR. NIXON HIGH MARKS ON "WORKING FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD" IS CONFIDENCE IN DR. KISSINGER'S EFFORTS. BY THE SAME TOKEN, BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE WOULD NOT ONLY WANT BUT EXPECT HIM TO REMAIN AS SECRETARY OF STATE IF THE PRESIDENT WERE IMPEACHED, DR. KISSINGER MAKES IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO ACCEPT VICE PRESIDENT FORD AS MR. NIXON'S SUCCESSOR. ANY DEFICIENCIES IN MR. FORD'S EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, MOST FEEL, WOULD MORE THAN BE MADE UP BY RETENTION OF DR. KISSINGER AS SECRETARY OF STATE IN A FORD ADMINISTRATION.

WHEN ASKED TO STATE HOW THEY FELT ABOUT HIM IN THEIR OWN WORDS, PEOPLE POURED OUT A CHORUS OF PRAISE FOR HENRY KISSINGER. THE MOST COMMONLY HEARD COMMENT WAS EXPRESSED BY A DOCTOR IN EASTPORT, MAINE: "HE REALLY GETS THINGS ACCOMPLISHED LIKE NOBODY ELSE IN ALL OF GOVERNMENT TODAY."

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ANOTHER SOURCE OF ADMIRATION WAS PUT THIS WAY BY A STUDENT IN MINNEAPOLIS: "HE HAS MADE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND HAS ACTUALLY MOVED THE WORLD CLOSER TO PEACE."

OTHERS LIKE HIS STYLE, AS A HOUSEWIFE IN NASHVILLE, TENN. SAID: "HE'S A GREAT DIPLOMAT AND IS JUST THE COOLEST MAN I'VE EVER SEEN." HIS LATEST EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WERE THE SOURCE OF SUBSTANTIAL PRIDE, AS A COMPUTER PROGRAMMER IN SUBURBAN CINCINNATI PUT IT: "THAT WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST COULD HAVE BECOME A THIRD WORLD WAR IF KISSINGER HADN'T PERSONALLY PUT A STOP TO IT."

STILL OTHERS ADMIRE HIS HARD WORK, AS A BUSINESSMAN IN MOLINE, ILL. SAID: "HE IS SO PATIENT AND HE WORKS HARDER THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD."

THE NEGATIVES ON DR. KISSINGER ARE NEGLIGIBLE, WITH ONLY THREE TURNING UP WITH ANY FREQUENCY. ONE IS AN EXPRESSION OF SKEPTICISM AS DESCRIBED BY A HISTORY PROFESSOR AT PRINCETON: "I SUSPECT THAT MUCH OF WHAT HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED IS JUST WORDS AND WON'T STAND UP IN A TOUGH TEST -- TOO MUCH COSMETICS." A SCHOOL TEACHER IN KANSAS CITY WAS TYPICAL OF THOSE WHO ACTIVELY DO NOT TRUST THE SECRETARY: "HE'S SLIPPERY AND HE'S DEVIANT. AND I DON'T QUITE BELIEVE ALL THOSE SOOTHING WORDS HE UTTERS." A SALESMAN IN BUFFALO, N.Y. SUGGESTED A THIRD FORM OF CRITICISM: "HE TRAVELS SO MUCH, YOU WONDER WHO IS LOOKING AFTER THINGS BACK HOME."

BUT WHEN ALL OF THE COMMENTS PRO AND CON ARE ADDED UP, HENRY KISSINGER WINS THE OVERWHELMING APPROVAL OF MOST AMERICANS.

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FINAL SECTION OF 02

BETWEEN MAY 4 AND MAY 7, 1,555 ADULTS WERE ASKED NATIONWIDE:

"HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE JOB SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER  
IS DOING -- EXCELLENT, PRETTY GOOD, ONLY FAIR, OR POOR?"

KISSINGER JOB RATING

TOTAL  
PUBLIC  
PCT

GOOD-EXCELLENT (POSITIVE)	85
ONLY FAIR-POOR (NEGATIVE)	10
NOT SURE	5

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